

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. XIV, No. 6, June, 1916

From Some Editorial Notes:

California Springs.—The cry of "see America first" has been heard throughout the land. But the European war and the fear of submarines did more than any amount of advertising, to convince the traveling public of the wisdom of heeding the cry. So, too, with our mineral springs, with which this country, like Europe, is richly endowed. The waters of the European spas can all be duplicated in the United States. Some of them are, possibly, superior to those of Europe. The great trouble with the springs in this country, is that no real effort has been made to induce people to go to them. In this State, we have no place that really meets the requirements of a first-class resort. First-class hotels, attractive grounds with an abundance of carefully laid-out walks, convenient drinking places, proper bathing facilities, carefully planned institutions for hydro- and mechano-therapy—all these are needed if a resort is to attract people, or if it expects the support of the medical profession. . . .

In Europe, the various municipal and state governments have done much to develop their resorts, not only because of the desire to lessen the suffering of humanity, but because of the revenue ultimately derived therefrom. A few years ago, the State of New York purchased Saratoga Springs. It obtained the services of experts to aid in the restoration of the springs which had suffered at the hands of near-sighted commercial interests. It has spent considerable money; it is today beginning to reap its reward; physicians are studying its waters; they expect to find that they are as efficacious as those of Nauheim, Vichy, Kissingen, etc. It will not be long before the cardiac, the nephritic, the gouty, the rheumatic, will be taught to "drink and bathe in America first."

In California we have numerous springs. None of them may be said to be properly managed. They not only lack many of the essentials necessary for successful handling of patients, but no attempt is made to run them on a scientific basis. By their extravagant claims and literature, they create distrust rather than confidence in the minds of the profession.

Might it not be well if our most active and very efficient State Board of Health, among its many other duties, took it upon itself to investigate our California springs, and make recommendations so as to induce private interests, or, failing in this, perhaps the legislature, to improve our resorts and place them upon a proper basis?

✓ ✓ ✓

Social or Health Insurance.—As will be seen from the minutes of the House of Delegates at the Fresno meeting, published elsewhere in this issue of the JOURNAL, considerable attention was given to a discussion of this very important subject. The JOURNAL has previously called attention to the fact that in this State a commission to study the whole situation was authorized by the last legislature, and an appropriation of \$20,000 provided for the purpose. The members of this commission are: Miss Barbara Nachtrieb, secretary; Miss Katherine C. Felton, Mrs. Frances

(Continued in Front Advertising Section, Page 16)

† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

* During the past two years, the California Medical Association has been cooperating with the California State Chamber of Commerce in efforts to develop the mineral springs of California.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.,
Secretary-Treasurer

News

"Twenty-one young Los Angeles physicians and surgeons—all within or close to draft ages—yesterday volunteered their services to the British Army Medical Corps in response to an appeal by President Roosevelt. Dr. Frank G. Nolan, spokesman for the group, said they hoped to be the nucleus of a battalion of one thousand American doctors asked by the President to help the British Red Cross. Each is a specialist in some branch of surgery, Doctor Nolan said. . . . Others in the group are: Doctors Arthur D. Pederson, J. Willoughby Howe, Donald Baker, Gaylord Brignell, H. J. Carter, Howard B. Norcross, Bruce Decker, Forest J. Brunigen, Robert Parker, A. V. Jackson, Frank Piazza, J. E. Pritchard, B. B. Lewis, John R. Phelps, B. Kalan, N. J. Feinstein, Walter Steiss, N. Gertmenion, George Lee, and J. Tenney." (Los Angeles Examiner, April 29, 1941.)

"Dr. Eaton McCloud Mackay, research director of the Scripps Metabolic Institute at 468 Prospect Street, La Jolla, yesterday was named by Governor Culbert L. Olson as a member of the State Board of Health to succeed the late Dr. Frank B. Young of Long Beach. Doctor Mackay is a graduate of Stanford and the University of California, and formerly was associated with the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. He became research director of the metabolic clinic in July, 1929." (San Diego Union, April 24, 1941.)

"C. A. De Vere, traveling lecturer on anatomy, who has been under arrest since March 17, on the charge of violating the Medical Practice Act by unlawfully posing as a physician and surgeon, today is at liberty. This morning he appeared before Justice of the Peace P. M. Smith of Auburn in the Colfax Justice's Court and withdrew his plea of not guilty, pleaded guilty and was fined \$100. The accused paid the fine and was released. . . . The authorities said a collection of preserved specimens of human anatomy, including the head and hands of William James Johnstone, alias John Anderson, alias John Wagoner, stored in a trailer here, were to be returned to De Vere. The court action followed the announcement in Sacramento by Charles H. Stone, chief of the State Bureau of Criminal Identification, that Johnstone, an ex-convict, committed suicide in St. Louis in 1935 and his body was released to a medical college for dissection. De Vere obtained the specimens in 1939. It has been feared the specimens were from the body of a murder victim. . . ." (Sacramento Bee, April 11, 1941.)

"The Assembly Committee on Medical and Dental Laws today gave a 'do pass' recommendation to a Chinese herbalist regulation proposal, with Chairman Melvyn I. Cronin of San Francisco opposing the bill because 'it kind of smells to me.' Assemblyman Charles W. Lyon of Los Angeles County is the author of the measure, A. B. 1349, which he said would provide state control of herb vendors and practitioners through licensing by the State Board of Pharmacy. Lyon declared such regulation is necessary to prevent misleading of the public by the use of words such

(Continued in Front Advertising Section, Page 30)

† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.